

Application No. 10/614,217  
Amendment dated October 17, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 2855/97

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 12-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pendray et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,,678,119). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pendray et al. Applicants notice no rejection for claims 18-25, and will assume they are allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere does the Pendray reference teach, suggest or disclose "[a] subambient pressure air bearing slider comprising...a subambient pressure region ... wherein a width of said side air bearing surface in a latitudinal direction of the slider is selected to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to camber in the slider" (e.g., as described in the embodiment of claim 1).

The Office Action does not cite to any specific section in Pendray in support of its rejection of this limitation, but rather simply asserts the predetermined flying height is not defined in the claim. Applicants disagree. Applicants sufficiently define the predetermined flying height in that it is the height that achieves "...predetermined flying height sensitivity to camber in the slider".

Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that the slider height is inherently selected, and therefore will achieve a well defined flying height sensitivity to camber. This is not true. A selection of slider height is not inherent, and moreover it is not true that such a randomly designed slider height will achieve a well-defined flying height sensitivity to camber. Indeed, the Office Action itself states explicitly that Pendray does not disclose a width of the side air bearing surface in a longitudinal direction of the slider is selected to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to camber in the slider. Therefore, the references as cited are inadequate to

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support a proper 103(a) rejection as they do not adequately disclose each and every limitation of independent claim 1.

Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Pendray reference does not teach suggest or disclose “[a] subambient pressure air bearing slider comprising:... at least one side air bearing surface, wherein a placement of said side air bearing surface and a width of said side air bearing surface in the longitudinal direction of the slider are selected to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to crowning in the slider” (e.g., as described in the embodiment of amended claim 9).

In its rejection of claim 9, the Office Action alleges that Pendray describes a subambient pressure air bearing slider...wherein a placement of the side air bearing surface and a width of the side air bearing surface in the longitudinal direction of the slider are selected to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to crowning in the slider”, but does not cite to a specific section in Pendray that does so. Moreover, in its rejection of previously cancelled claim 13, the Office Action cites column 3 lines 61-67 as disclosing selecting a width, in a longitudinal direction for the slider body, of a side air bearing surface and a position for said side air bearing slider to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to crowning in the slider. Column 3 lines 61-67 state:

As discussed in more detail below, slider 110 has a hydrodynamic (e.g. air) bearing that has a reduced fly height sensitivity to changes in ambient pressure at altitudes between sea level and 10,000 feet above sea level. This allows the target fly height to be set more efficiently for flying conditions at sea level, and also reduces the possibility of head crashes at high operating altitudes.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this section does not teach, suggest or disclose at least the limitations "...at least one side air bearing surface, wherein a placement of said side air bearing surface and a width of said side air bearing surface in the longitudinal direction of the slider are selected to achieve a predetermined flying height sensitivity to crowning in the slider" as found in the embodiment of claim 9. Claim 12 contains similar allowable limitations.

Therefore, since each and every limitation is not taught or suggested in the Pendray reference, independent claims 1, 9 and 12 are in condition for allowance and the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 2-8, 10-11 and 13-25 depend from allowable independent claims and therefore are allowable. For the foregoing reasons, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections should be withdrawn as well.

For at least all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

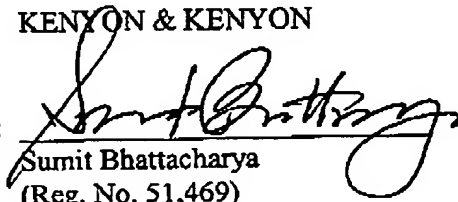
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By:

  
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